

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1 to 14 and amend claims 15, 16, 17 and add claims 18 to 40 such that the claim set reads as follows:

1. to 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A [[a]] method for drilling a wellbore through a tar sand-containing formation, the method comprising: operating a drilling assembly to drill a wellbore and circulating an ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid through the wellbore as it is drilled, the ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid including an amount of a tar sand anti-accretion additive including at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine in an amount effective to limit tar sand accretion on metal surfaces.

16. (Currently amended) A [[a]] method for limiting accretion on metal surfaces in contact with tar sand-containing formation, the method comprising: washing the metal surfaces with an aqueous-based drilling fluid, the ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid including an amount of at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine.

17. (Currently amended) A [[a]] method for removing accretion from metal surfaces in contact with tar sand-containing formation, the method comprising: washing the metal surfaces with an ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid, the ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid including an amount of at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine.

18. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the tar sand anti-accretion additive is present in the drilling fluid at a concentration of at least 0.1% by weight of the drilling fluid.

19. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the tar sand anti-accretion additive is neutralized to a pH of 7 to 10.

20. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the drilling fluid containing tar sand anti-accretion additive is circulated during drilling when tar sand drill cuttings are produced.

21. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the drilling fluid containing tar sand anti-accretion additive is circulated during drilling of a build section of the wellbore.

22. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the drilling fluid containing tar sand anti-accretion additive is circulated during drilling of a horizontal section of the wellbore.

23. (New) The method of claim 15 where the phosphate ester is the mono and di phosphate ester of monoethanolamine.

24. (New) The method of claim 15 where the phosphate ester is the mono and di phosphate ester of diethanolamine.

25. (New) The method of claim 15 where the phosphate ester is the mono and di ester of triethanolamine.

26. (New) The method of claim 15 where the phosphonate is ATMP.

27. (New) The method of claim 15 where the phosphonate is HEDP.

28. (New) The method of claim 15 where the phosphonate is EDTMPA.

29. (New) The method of claim 15 where the phosphonate is DTPMPA.

30. (New) The method of claim 15 where the phosphonate is BHMTMPA.

31. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of washing is carried out by circulating the drilling fluid through the wellbore.

32. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of washing is carried out during drilling the wellbore.

33. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of washing is carried out during running a liner into the wellbore.

34. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine is present in the drilling fluid in an amount of at least 0.1% by weight of the drilling fluid.

35. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine is neutralized to a pH of 7 to 10.

36. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of washing is carried out during drilling the wellbore.

37. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of washing is carried out during running a liner into the wellbore.

38. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine is present in the drilling fluid in an amount of at least 0.1% by weight of the drilling fluid.

39. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine is neutralized to a pH of 7 to 10.

40. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of washing is carried out by circulating the drilling fluid through the wellbore.